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Rec'd: AUGUST 15, 1961

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FROM: POL

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 333, AUGUST 15, 5 PM

REACT

ACTION DEPARTMENT 333, INFORMATION BERLIN PRIORITY 100, PARIS PRIORITY 85, LONDON PRIORITY 69, MOSCOW PRIORITY 48

PARIS FOR USRO, STOESSSEL AND MCGUIRE

RE DEPTTEL 350

I BELIEVE IN ADDITION TO COMMANDANTS' PROTEST ON EAST GERMAN CLOSURE INTERSECTOR BORDER TO EAST GERMANS THAT VIGOROUS PROTEST SHOULD FOLLOW PROMPTLY IN MOSCOW.

AS INDICATED MY TEL 318, [REDACTED] COMPLETE BAN ON EAST GERMAN TRAVEL EXCEPT FOR HUMANITARIAN COMPASSIONATE CASES SHOULD BE INSTITUTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND POLTO 32 TO DEPT INDICATES SUCH BAN WOULD GET FULL NATO SUPPORT. I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD BE OVERLY CONCERNED THAT IF WE INSTITUTE BAN EAST GERMANS MIGHT IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON WESTERN TRAVEL TO EAST BERLIN. THIS STEP THEY COULD AND WOULD TAKE AT TIME OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING FOR THEIR OWN REASONS, AND IN FACT, PRESS REPORTS THEY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN SUCH RESTRICTIONS TODAY. FURTHER COMMUNIST ENCROACHMENTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO RESULT FROM OUR FAILURE TO TAKE RESOLUTE ACTION THAN FROM ANY MEASURES WE MIGHT NOW INSTITUTE. WE MUST IN ANY CASE MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR TO THEM THAT WE HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE FIRM EFFECTIVE ACTION IN RETALIATION FOR THEIR CLOSING INTERSECTOR BORDER TO EAST GERMANS. IDEA OF CLOSING DOWN ATO FOR INDETERMINATE PERIOD ON GROUNDS SUGGESTED REPTTEL MIGHT PROVE A PROBABLE AND EFFECTIVE ARRANGEMENT.

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-2- 333, AUGUST 15, 5 PM FROM BONN

WITH RESPECT TO OTHER RETALIATORY MEASURES, PROMINENT GERMAN POLITICAL FIGURES [REDACTED] HAVE BEEN EXHORTING GERMAN BUSINESS NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN LEIPZIG FAIR WHICH STARTS SEP 3, AND I BELIEVE FEDREP WOULD TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION TO PREVENT PARTICIPATION WEST GERMAN FIRMS TO CONSIDERABLE EXTENT THROUGH MORAL SUASION EVEN THOUGH SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER LICENSES FOR EXHIBITION ALREADY ISSUED AND DIFFICULT REVOKE IN BRIEF PERIOD BEFORE FAIR OPENS. IZT AGREEMENT ITSELF DOES NOT OBLIGE FEDREP TO PERMIT PARTICIPATION FRG FIRMS IN LEIPZIG FAIR AND ALL EXHIBITS ARE SUBJECT TO INDIVIDUAL LICENSING. MOREOVER, CIVIL AIR ATTACHES THREE EMBASSIES HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED REQUEST FROM KLM FOR SPECIAL CLEARANCES FOR LEIPZIG FAIR FLIGHTS AND, DESPITE PRECEDENT FOR GRANTING SUCH CLEARANCES, WE ARE WITHHOLDING APPROVAL PENDING FURTHER DECISIONS ON POSSIBLE RETALIATORY MEASURES. ll)

ll)  
DOWLING

MEM

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